[President.]

Kanni crop. The benefit was extended to Kandukrishi and Sripandaravagai lands also. The total remission amounted to Rs 1,09,040. There was also a general remission of 50 per cent. on tax of Re. 1 and below, 12½ per cent. on tax above Re. 1 and total remission of land tax of one chuckram and less in respect of the current arreas for 1113 under Ayacut outstanding on the last day of Karkatakam. The amount thus remitted was Rs 93,858. The above remission was allowed in respect of water cess and irrigation assessment as well, the amount remitted being Rs 3,449. The benefit of these concessions was extended in 1114 to those who had already paid their tax for 1113 and to those who would pay their kists for 1114 at least one month before the close of the year. The amount remitted on this account is estimated at Rs 4,30,668.

A general remission of one half of the demand notice fee was allowed during the first half of 1114 for those who paid their dues before the end of Makaram 1114.

Twenty per cent. remission of the Ayacut demand in the taluks of Thovala, Agastheeswaram (except the pakuthies of Neendakara A and B divisions), and Shenkottah, including Sripandaravaga lands, has been allowed for a period of five years from the second half of 1114. On an average this brings about a remission of Rs 84,400 per annum.

RURAL UPLIFT.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been set apart in the budget for the next year for being utilised for rural welfare work. Seven Village Panchayats, constituted under Act VII of 1100, have been in existence for some years, but the results have fallen short of expectations. It is therefore proposed to introduce a scheme to rehabilitate the Village Panchayats. The idea is to have a Village Panchayat for every village. It is proposed to have one Panchayat in every taluk next year. The most suitable village will be selected for the purpose. All the nation-building departments will as far as possible be represented in the Panchayat and the Tahsildar of the taluk will be the chairman. It is expected that the changes now proposed will go a great way in improving the conditions of the villagers.

MARKET TOLLS.

Government also propose to abolish tentatively during the next year the market tolls in respect of head loads weighing less than twenty pounds. It is hoped that this will afford some relief to poor villagers who carry the fruits of their labours to the market and with the proceeds thereof purchase the necessaries of life.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN SOUTH TRAVANCORE.

About six months ago it was brought to the notice of Government by officials as well as by non-officials that there was scarcity of drinking water in South Travancore as most of the wells in the interior of the taluks had dried up. After carefully investigating the matter a

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